

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EA-11 SAJ-01 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03

SS-20 RSC-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-20 HEW-08

SCI-06 DRC-01 /138 W

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P 041137Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2657

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 3960

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, PINT, PFOR, AU

SUBJECT: PRG AND KHMER ISSUES BEFORE WHO

REF: (A) STATE 83517

(B) STATE 62535

1. IN ABSENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER KIRSCHLAEGER AND
MFA ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL (BOTH OF WHOM ON OFFICIAL
VISIT IN SWITZERLAND). I CALLED ON AMB STEINER, NEXT
RANKING MFA OFFICIAL, LATE FRIDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 5,
AND MADE STRONG DEMARCHE URGING AUSTRIA TO VOTE AGAINST
PARTICIPATION OF PRG AND GRUNK IN UPCOMING WHO
ASSEMBLY, SHOULD ISSUE BE RAISED IN THAT FORUM.
(I HAD PLANNED TO RAISE SUBJECT WITH FONMIN ABOUT TEN
DAYS AGO BUT DEATH OF AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT AND ARRANGE-
MENTS FOR STATE FUNERAL PRECLUDED MY DOING SO.)

2. I MADE VARIOUS APPROPRIATE POLITICAL AND LEGAL ARGUMENTS
TO STEINER ON SUBJECT, DRAWING ON GUIDANCE PROVIDED IN
REFTEL (B). I ALSO REGISTERED OUR GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT
OVER EARLIER AUSTRIAN ABSTENTIONS ON ISSUE WHEN SUBJECT
RAISED IN OTHER FORA AND INDICATED OUR HOPE THAT AUSTRIA
WOULD NOW DEAL WITH ISSUE ON ITS MERITS, WHICH LOGICALLY
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SHOULD RESULT IN DECISION TO VOTE AGAINST PRG AND GRUNK

PARTICIPATION.

3. IN RESPONSE, STEINER SAID MFA FULLY UNDERSTOOD USG POSITION AND VIEWPOINTS & ON ISSUE AND WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT AUSTRIA, AS NEUTRAL, SIMPLY DOES NOT HAVE MUCH SCOPE FOR MANEUVER ON ISSUE OF ATTENDANCE AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES. HE NOTED THAT WHILE AUSTRIA'S PRIVATE PREFERENCES WERE OBVIOUSLY CLOSER TO USG THAN TO THIRD WORLD GROUPING, AUSTRIA COULD NOT TAKE STRONGER POLITICAL STAND THAN THAT ADOPTED BY COUNTRIES (CITED WERE CANADA, AUSTRALIA, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY OR SWEDEN) WHICH ARE EITHER U.S. ALLIES OR ORIENTATION POINTS FOR AUSTRIAN FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS. ACCORDINGLY, AUSTRIA WILL ABSTAIN ON ISSUE. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF MY REQUEST, STEINER SAID HE WOULD RAISE ISSUE AGAIN WITH KIRSCHLAEGER WHO IS DUE BACK IN VIENNA THIS WEEKEND BUT THAT HE WAS NOT SAGUINE ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR CHANGING AUSTRIAN POSITION.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE TRIED SEVERAL TIMES IN RECENT MONTHS WITHOUT SUCCESS TO MOVE GOA FROM ABSTENTION TO OPPOSITION ON PRG AND KHMER ISSUES AND ARE, OFCOURSE, PREPARED, ON INSTRUCTION, TO CONTINUE TO DO SO IN THE FUTURE. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, HOLD OUT MUCH HOPE OF BEING ABLE TO CHANGE AUSTRIA'S STANCE UNLESS AND UNTIL WE CAN INFORM GOA THAT SEVERAL WEO COUNTRIES, E.G. AUSTRALIA, NETHERLANDS AND CANADA, ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT USG POSITION. HUMES

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